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United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,

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CREEPING BENT (*Agrostis stolonifera*).

A fine-leaved, hardy, native perennial grass, with long prostrate or creeping stems which enable it to spread quite rapidly and form an excellent velvety turf. In texture it far surpasses any of the other grasses, but its color is a somewhat lighter green than Kentucky bluegrass. The flower stalks are from 1 to 2 feet tall, and the seed head is an open panicle resembling very much the common redtop, of which this grass is a near relative. It was imported from Europe, but has been cultivated in the New England and Middle Atlantic States so long that it appears indigenous there. In England it is called "Fiorin" grass.

Value in the United States.—Since its early introduction in the Eastern States creeping bent has become quite widely known through the Northeast as a lawn grass and as a "bottom" grass for permanent pastures. Throughout this region and south to North Carolina it is a valuable grass for wet soils, and although it will thrive on lighter soils it does best in boggy situations and will hold the ground quite tenaciously against all weeds and other grasses when once it gains a foothold. Hot weather is not particularly injurious to it if not accompanied by drought.

It does not grow of sufficient height to be counted a hay grass in this country, although it is claimed that in Ireland in favorable locations it makes a very large yield of fine hay, which, however, possesses only ordinary feeding value. Its chief use is in mixtures with other grasses for lowland pastures and in seeding lawns and golf links. For the Southern Atlantic States it is much superior to Kentucky bluegrass for lawns, and nothing approaching it can be found for sodding the putting greens of golf links. Constant trampling seems to improve the sod.

Culture.—The seed is easily obtained from seedsmen at 18 to 25 cents a pound. In pasture mixtures it may be used in about the same proportion as redtop. The seed weighs about 14 pounds per bushel. In Connecticut remarkably clean sods of this grass have been obtained in sheep pastures where close cropping and constant trampling have killed out the coarser grasses and weeds.

It is recommended for use only in pastures where there is certain to be an abundant supply of moisture or on lawns and golf links where a fine turf is desired. A close turf may be obtained quickly by cutting the sod up into pieces 2 or 3 inches square and planting these in well-prepared soil 6 or 8 inches apart. If conditions are favorable, the grass will spread over the entire surface within less than three months.

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